

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STOCKH 03014 111436Z

42

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

----- 086315

O 111415Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2402

S E C R E T STOCKHOLM 3014

EXDIS

DEPT PASS DOD/ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SW

SUBJECT: PROJECTED TRANSIT BY USS FURER OF ALAND STRAITS

REF: A. STATE 149392

B. STOCKHOLM 2998

C. STOCKHOLM A-98

D. STATE A-1666

1. SINCE MY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE CONDUCT OF US RELATIONS WITH SWEDEN COVER US ACTIVITIES INSIDE SWEDISH TERRITORIAL WATERS, I EXPECT THAT DEPARTMENT WILL CONCUR IN MY RECOMMENDATION AGAINST THE TRANSIT OF THE USS FURER THROUGH THE ALAND STRAITS.

2. NOTHING WAS REVEALED TO ME ABOUT A PROJECT TO CONFRONT THE SWEDES ON THE ALAND STRAITS WHEN THE VISIT TO STOCKHOLM WAS PROPOSED. I APPROVED THIS VISIT ON POLITICAL GROUNDS AS A STEP IN RESTORING US-SWEDISH RELATIONS TO NORMAL AND TO HELP MAINTAIN CLOSE AND FRIENDLY US-SWEDISH MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS OF LASTING VALUE AND IMPORTANCE. THE VISIT OF THE USS FURER HAS DONE EXACTLY WHAT I EXPECTED IT WOULD DO. IT HAS HAD FAVORABLE LOCAL REACTION, PRODUCED NO INCIDENTS, AND CREATED GOOD WILL. I SEE NO REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR JEOPARDIZING THIS ACHIEVEMENT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STOCKH 03014 111436Z

3. IF THE SHIP GOES NORTH THROUGH THE STRAITS, I HAVE NO

DOUBT WHATSOEVER THAT I WILL RECEIVE A FORMAL PROTEST FROM THE GOS, SPARKING VERY UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS IN THE PRESS. MOST IMPORTANT, AND GREATEST CONCERN TO ME, IS FALLOUT ON OUR VERY SENSITIVE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH THE MOD FROM A FORAY THAT HAS NOT BEEN COORDINATED WITH THIS MISSION IN ADVANCE OF USS FURER VISIT.

4. I WOULD LIKE TO THINK, BUT HAVE YET TO BE SHOWN, THAT A PASSAGE OF THE ALAND STRAITS BY A US WARSHIP IS, AT THIS STAGE, A WELL-CONCEIVED AND COORDINATED POLITICAL/MILITARY OPERATION. AT A LATER DATE, WITHOUT ASSOCIATION WITH A VISIT TO A SWEDISH PORT, THE QUESTION OF A PASSAGE THROUGH THE ALAND STRAITS COULD BE CONSIDERED IN CONSULTATION WITH THIS MISSION. AT PRESENT, ENGAGING THE USS FURER IN TEST OF SWEDEN'S DECLARED POSITION SEEMS TO ME BOTH UNTIMELY AND BRASH.

5. APPLICABLE SWEDISH REGULATIONS APPEAR IN CODE OF STATUTES 1966:366 TITLED "GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR NAVAL VESSELS AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT OF FOREIGN POWERS." THESE PROVIDE FOR PASSAGE THROUGH TERRITORIAL WATERS FOLLOWING DIPLOMATIC NOTIFICATION. FURTHER DETAILS ARE IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM.

6. ISSUE WAS SURFACED LATE JULY 9 WHEN SWEDISH NAVAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICER ON DEFENSE STAFF (LIEUTENANT COMMANDER) ASKED ALUSNA POINTEDLY WHETHER SHIP WOULD BE HEADING NORTH. IF SO, HE SAID, DIPLOMATIC NOTICE WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS OF ALAND. THIS INFORMAL POSITION WAS CONFIRMED SLIGHTLY MORE FORMALLY TO THE NAVAL ATTACHE JULY 10 BY THE DEFENSE FOREIGN LIAISON OFFICE NAVY SECTION HEAD (COMMANDER AF KLINT). BOTH OFFICERS HAVE HIGHER AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY, PARTICULARLY DURING PERIOD OF SUMMER ABSENCES, THAN WOULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR RANK IN THE US.

7. ALUSNA HAS NEITHER CONFIRMED NOR DENIED TRANSIT PROJECT IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS SWEDISH CONTACTS.

8. ALUSNA DISCUSSED SWEDISH POSITION JULY 11 WITH REAR ADMIRAL DARVAS, CHIEF OF DEFENSE DEPARTMENT FOREIGN LIAISON OFFICE AND ADJUTANT TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. DARVAS CITED REGULATIONS MENTIONED ABOVE. HE ADDED THAT IN 1972 A SOVIET WARSHIP MADE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STOCKH 03014 111436Z

THIS TRANSIT WITHOUT NOTIFICATION. THE GOS LODGED A DIPLOMATIC PROTEST THAT RESULTED IN A QUARRELSOME EXCHANGE LASTING SIX MONTHS BUT ENDING WITH SOVIET RECOGNITION OF THE GOS POSITION. DARVAS ADDED THAT THE USSR NOW MAKES DIPLOMATIC NOTIFICATION PRIOR TO TRANSIT AND THAT A FRENCH DESTROYER RECENTLY FURNISHED DIPLOMATIC NOTIFICATION (NOT IMMEDIATELY CONFIRMABLE).

9. WE SEE THE SWEDISH POSITION REPORTED IN EMBASSY A-98 AS

NOT REPEAT NOT SUGGESTING SWEDISH ACCEPTANCE OF THE DOCTRINE OF "INNOCENT PASSAGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION," SINCE IT REPORTS SWEDEN AS WILLING TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING FREE TRANSIT BUT ALSO STATING "REALISTIC CONDITIONS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE EXERCISE OF THIS RIGHT."

10. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME BRIEFING RE THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES FOR THE US AND THE USSR THAT WOULD FLOW FROM ESTABLISHING THE RIGHT OF WARSHIPS TO TRANSIT THE ALAND STRAITS WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTIFICATION, EVEN IF THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED.

11. IN SUMMARY, IT IS MY CONSIDERED OPINION THAT THE HARM THAT WOULD BE CAUSED BY CARRYING OUT PROPOSED USS FURER MISSION WOULD OUTWEIGH THE POSSIBLE GAINS FROM IT, AND JEOPARDIZE THE GRADUALLY IMPROVING STATE OF US-SWEDISH RELATIONS.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INNOCENT PASSAGE, NAVAL SHIPS, USS FURER, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, TERRITORIAL WATERS VIOLATIONS, ALAND STRAITS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STOCKH03014
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740185-0364
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740756/aaaabvsw.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A. STATE 149392
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROJECTED TRANSIT BY USS FURER OF ALAND STRAITS
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005